



MSICHANA EMPOWERMENT KURIA

Msichana Empowerment Kuria; “**Msichana**” Swahili word for girl, was born on the principle that every life is precious; every girl deserves a fair start at life to realize her full potential from birth to adulthood. To provide a safe haven, build capacity and support the development of young women and girls in Kuria. It began as an informal mentorship space for adolescent girls back in 2013, Four years down the line we continue to do exactly that by ensure that all girls born in the Kuria community are free from Female Genital Mutilation, other harmful cultural practices and have access to their rights.



Who we are

Msichana Empowerment Kuria is a young women-led grassroots organization committed to Ending Female Genital Mutilation, other harmful cultural practices and support access to fundamental human rights of girls and young women in the kuria community, Kenya.

What DO We do?

- We innovate sustainable solutions to realize social change to End Female Genital Mutilation, other harmful cultural practices and access to rights.
- We inspire action through volunteerism, advocacy and grassroots movement building.
- We influence policy and practices by participating in National, regional and international global advocacy.



What we Hope to Achieve

Our Vision

Is of healthy and empowered girls and young women, accessing their fundamental human rights, and with the opportunity to realize their full potential. Within

our specific goal to End Female Genital Mutilation in our community in one generation.

We aim to achieve accelerated and sustained social change in our community and beyond. To achieve this, we have been implementing three main approaches.



Community-led Advocacy

- We facilitate structured community dialogues; Intergenerational, young men, girls. One village at a time we are having the much needed conversations by demystifying myths and misconceptions on female genital mutilation as a social norm. To date we have engaged more than 1,000 young men, 600 women and men in structured community dialogues.
- We organize annual marches and community events; in 2017 we organized the first annual Msichana began the End FGM

community champions' celebrations that celebrated positive action, brave community members who've stood up against the cut in their own special way and amplify stories of change to strengthen the movement. All the champions were nominated by their various villages. The event was hosted on April 7th a symbolic day; Number 7 is superstitious for the community, we mimicked a circumcision ceremony, hosted an intergenerational football march between the girls and village elders to break the intergenerational gap and awarded 40 girls and 20 community members. The event brought together more than 5,000 community members.



Education

- We support an after school program a Children's Rights Based literacy story telling program for children 8 to 14 years aimed at developing the knowledge, skills and talents of marginalized girls and children to promote literacy, access to rights through establishing a safe space for girls and children.

Our Story-time and reading sessions engage 300 weekly children aged 8 to 14 years through storytelling sessions involving learning from African stories of folk tales, fairy tales, adventure stories e.t.c to improve literacy and preserve our good cultural heritage and promote peaceful coexistence and cultural tolerance.

Through our story telling afterschool sessions, we inspire our children & girls to share their stories using their life experiences, and build public speaking skills and self-confidence they need to thrive. Elimika after school program

bridges developmental gaps of children by teaching reading and comprehension through storytelling; with a focus on teaching on Children's rights, values and demystifying harmful traditional cultural practices like Female Genital Mutilation , Child marriage and abuse.

- We are currently sponsoring five girls in schools who were rescued from circumcision.



- We have kept more than 1,000 girls in school during menstruation by providing them with sanitary towels and menstrual hygiene education.

Skills and Mentorship:

- We support NAWeza –“I can “a positive reinforcement Girl-led program that is designed to provide the girls an empowering experience with an emphasis on impact of the harmful effects of Female Genital Mutilation. This year-long

skills based program broken into 16 weeks sessions intensive training sessions for 60 girls annually in class five, six and seven addresses the numerous topics prevalent in the lives of young Kuria girls.

NAWEZA provides a safe place for girls to be who they are, educational and recreational experiences through positive social interactions. We have seen these amazing young girls improve in their ability to make better decision, inspire them to be strong, have a positive self-image and gain confidence in their everyday lives. The program introduces girls to the importance of confidence, and the potential and



power of women.

A special component of the program is that we support skills workshops for parents of the girls to sustain the change beyond their time in the program by teach them key issues in human rights and socio - economic empowerment.

Why Ending FGM is super important for us

Female Genital Mutilation is violence against girls and women; a violation of their human dignity and rights. 8 in 10 girls in our community is at risk of undergoing the cut every single circumcision season. This number is way too much, these are not just a statistic its dreams, professionals, leaders, Changemakers cut short. We want girls to be free from any form of violence, allowed to be children and given opportunity to thrive; Female Genital Mutilation begins the circle of violence and normalizes it. We will continue being fearless, committed and relentless in our efforts to end the cut with us in one generation.



We amplify our work on:

Facebook: [Msichana Empowerment Kuria](https://www.facebook.com/MsichanaEmpowermentKuriahq)

Instagram: [Msichana Empowerment Kuria](https://www.instagram.com/MsichanaEmpowermentKuriahq)

Twitter: [@MsichanaKuriahq](https://twitter.com/MsichanaKuriahq)

Web: www.msichanaempowermentkuria.co.ke.



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Teachers/Facilitators

Are you passionate about reading? Do you love to work with children and young people? Perfect, us too. Volunteering at our afterschool program in community youth centre will offer you the opportunity to interact with standard three and four students (ages 8-13) in a non-formal, academic atmosphere. We host nearly 500 children from four area schools every week in our after school program. Most of our children and young people come from disadvantaged backgrounds and the library can be the best part of their weeks. You will be expected to help carry out and plan engaging, fun, and effective programming, interact with our children, and collaborate with our existing facilitators. Msichana is determined to inspire a generation of young people who believe in their dreams. We would love you to come alongside us in the pursuit of this mission. At the centre we read, create, write, and, most importantly, have fun. Your time with us will be memorable. <https://www.instagram.com/p/BT8Ozs5gDjf/>

Responsibilities

- ✦ Co-facilitate literacy initiative 6 days/wk,
- ✦ 2 hrs/day + Support adolescent programming, i.e. training on entrepreneurship, sexual and reproductive health training,
- ✦ fun group activities
- ✦ Organize and carry-out capacity building activities/curriculum for children, i.e spelling bee, recitation of plays, dancing competitions
- ✦ General library structural management (record keeping, impact assessments, etc.)
- ✦ Commitment for a minimum 3 months stay.
- ✦ We request our volunteers to atleast donate stationary, board games or an equivalent of \$100 to support our community centre.

Qualifications

- ✦ Speak, read, write (English required)
- ✦ Experience and confidence in working with primary-age children
- ✦ Classroom management skills
- ✦ Comfortable using IT
- ✦ Physically able to move library resources and trolleys, and be on your feet for long periods
- ✦ Communication and interpersonal skills
- ✦ Organisational skills
- ✦ Able to work with minimal supervision
- ✦ Adaptable



2. Adolescent Girl Mentor/ Facilitator (Naweza Adolescent Girls Program)

Are you passionate about working with Girls? So are we. Would you like to inspire the next generation of leaders? You are perfect match for us.

The Naweza Adolescent Girls Program is an empowering life changing flexible four month skills program for adolescent Girls aged approximately 12-18 years.

Naweza is a Swahili Word for "I Can". Our program provides empowering educational and recreational experiences through positive social interactions, peer mentoring, life skills development. Our Hope is that these young beautiful girls will improve their ability to make better decision, inspire them to be Strong, have a positive self-image and gain confidence in their everyday lives. The girls in our program come from very vulnerable homes at risk of undergoing female genital cutting, child marriage, dropping out of school. Some of these girls have gone through very traumatizing experiences. We believe in the power of a motivated, empowered girl to change her life and that of her family because girls rule the world.

When you contribute your skills, you will give our community a great resource and new energy and have fun while at it. Make new friends and family.

You will have the ability to visit and experience our magical country. Amazing right?

<https://www.facebook.com/msichanakuria/>

Responsibilities

- ✦ Facilitate the girl forums
- ✦ Minimum 5 hrs/wk (Saturday and Sunday) commitment for a minimum of 4 months stay.
- ✦ We request our lovely volunteers to atleast donate Sanitary towels & underwear or an equivalent of \$ 200 to support our adolescent girls.

Qualifications

- ✦ 18 years and above
- ✦ Speak English
- ✦ Passionate about working with girls
- ✦ Flexible
- ✦ FUN
- ✦ Self-Driven
- ✦ Adept communication skills
- ✦ Can live in a small rural community
- ✦ Open-minded



- ⬆ Innovative
- ⬆ Having a counseling background is an added advantage.

3. Support our Safe Houses/ Girls Holiday camps

Every school holiday ; april, August and December we host village adolescent girls camp to mentor and train adolescent girls on life skills. Every circumcision year we rescue and support our partners rescue girls from Female Genital Mutilation.

More than 80% of girls below age 18 are at risk of undergoing genital mutilation every year, unfortunately the pain doesn't end with the cut of the blade she relives the trauma throughout her life by the scar left and faces life threatening effects as a result. This practice involves all procedures of cutting the female genital for non-medical reasons causing unimaginable pain and harm to the girl. Unfortunately after the cut she becomes due for marriage and in most cases married off to a man twice as old for a little as a chicken as bride price

This position for someone willing to directly work with young girls at risk of female genital mutilation.

Responsibilities

- ⬆ Donate and Help fundriase for the safe houses and girls camp.
- ⬆ Co-Facilitate the girl forums.
- ⬆ Planning the sessions.
- ⬆ Writing reports and documenting.
- ⬆ We request our lovely volunteers to atleast donate Sanitary towels & underwear or an equivalent of \$ 200 to support our adolescent girls.
- ⬆ Commitment of one month stay.

Qualifications

- ⬆ 18 years and above
- ⬆ Speak English
- ⬆ Passionate about working with girls
- ⬆ Flexible
- ⬆ FUN
- ⬆ Self-Driven
- ⬆ Adept communication skills
- ⬆ Can live in a small rural community
- ⬆ Open-minded
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